

Monterey

Notes by Eddie and Dick Stoiber Sept. 1, 1984

Minor modifications and an addendum since

Louis Stoiber, Dick's grandfather, spent one or more summers in the early 1890's in Lenox in the Berkshires. During this time, perhaps in 1892 or thereabouts, he drove over in a horse and carriage to Monterey with his son Edwin, Dick's father, and perhaps Arthur, Dick's uncle. They boarded at the Sears' farm, located across Highway 23 from the present Stoiber land. Sometime after this, quite probably between 1890 and 1895, Louis bought a lake lot opposite the cottage at the sharp turn at the west end of Bidwell Road. (The name of the road was changed from Lake to Bidwell perhaps in the 1950's). I don't know how soon after this he bought property opposite Sears. The house he built on the property opposite Sears was called Roundtop and I think, later, Lakewood Terrace. The house burned down in the mid-1930's. Webb had a cottage near the lake in front of our present cottage, nearer the lake than Anderson's cottage is now. It burned (an oilstove overturned) in perhaps 1905. You can see burn scars even today on the sides of the tall pines which must have faced the fire. Louis Stoiber bought the property. The fact that the lake property was bought separately from the main road lots is why their boundaries don't match up. (Some of the dates of these purchases may be found in some old deeds in the Ancestor stuff in my Norwich bedroom closet. One day I shall look and incorporate the information here.) The coming to Monterey and the purchase of property was because Louis Stoiber knew a group of New York ministers and others, probably in connection with his interest in the Legal Aid society. Rev. Elsing may have been the moving force in the land subdivision called Garfield Park. The lots Louis Stoiber bought were part of this. Rev. Elsing's house was the one on the main road just east of the eastern intersection of Bidwell Rd. and Route 23.

In 1914, I think, (or perhaps 1915) the barn of Roundtop which stood where the garage is now, was moved across the road and remodelled into a cottage. Dick's mother, Edna, told the builder how to fix it over very simply. It, like many cottages at this time, had a name but I cannot recall what it was. It might have been Lake View. The name hung over the roadside door. There have been very few changes since the cottage was remodelled from the barn: electricity in the 1930's, sealing in the upstairs by my grandfather in the thirties and electric refrigeration instead of ice from the ice house in this same period, a change from oil to gas for cooking in 1942, and a telephone in the 1960's, a second telephone in 1992. Jimmy Martin, whose son was later Postmaster of Monterey, built the fireplace. Almost surely Ed Whitney of Hartsville did the carpentry work. A little later Dick Bidwell built china closets and wood boxes at Edna P. Stoiber's (Dick's mother's) request. Dick Bidwell's parents lived next door in Pine Shores and Dick and Evelyn, his wife, lived down in the small house in the woods, in 1984, Carmichael's. Sometime around 1918 The Pines was built as a playhouse for Richard by his grandfather. It was built by adding to a lean-to-like half of a chicken house which leaned against the back of the ice house.. One summer in the twenties Amy Corrigan, a friend of my mother's,

came to the cottage and her husband installed the small window in the upper hall. The cesspool on the lake side of the cottage was recovered with treated wood perhaps in the 1970's with the help of a Quissenberry son. The latest paint job was by all of us in the 60's I think. The kitchen porch was jacked up and levelled as was the roadside entry porch- a terribly difficult job by a Great Barrington carpenter who was never so glad to get anything completed in this life. He did a good job. A new roof was put on (except for the porch roofs) in 1989 by Tom O'Brien. Greg built new lakeside stairs in the forties and they were replaced by treated wood stairs in 1990 by Tom O'Brien. Over the years Charlie Eno, Harold Hart and most recently Mark Makuc have helped us care for the cottage and outbuildings. Mark and I have done important fix-ups in the 1980's and 1990. He levelled up the garage, put a new wall up behind the boathouse. He helped O'Brien square up the boathouse and in 1991 he rebuilt the docks with treated wood. Eddie and I didn't go to the cottage in 1991. We had a new light switch installed in the bathroom and base plugs in the living room. In 1992 Marc has cleared his lot just east of our upper lots separated by 45 feet or so of a path for the people just east of us, Dr. and Mrs. Riess from Washington, DC. It is good that Mark is to be our neighbor.

Eddie bought a gas heater years ago but it had gotten hard to light and the fan was noisy. In 1992 we bought a new one which heats the cottage wonderfully, supplemented by an electric heater in the bedroom. The refrigerator was new many years ago taking the place of the old General Electric with the round motor on top which grandfather Louis installed in the 30's. We had two ice chests when I was a boy, one on the lakeside screened porch and one on the back kitchen porch. Ross and I got ice every few days from the ice house where ice had been cut from the lake and put in sawdust the previous winter to supply us for the summer. The ice house is the present tool house northeast of the cottage.

Dick first came to Monterey to his grandmother's (Roundtop) with his mother when he was one and a half years old, in 1912. He may have come the following year. In 1914 I think Edna and Edwin and Richard went to Anasquam MA for vacation. In 1915 I think he went to the present cottage and did so all summer for many, indeed most summers, between 1918 and 1927, inclusive. In 1917 we went to the Considine House in Brewster on Cape Cod. My folks knew the Macalisters, a couple their age, in East Orange. They had a daughter Jean. The Macalisters were with us at the cottage in 1918 and 1919. I think it was 1919 when Mr. (Will) Macalister came for his vacation in July and it rained every single day. The Seelys were my folks age and lived in East Orange, later in Newark and still later in Atlantic City. They had a son Ross. Ross Seely came with us in 1920 thru 1925. His mother was here at least once. I remember well how she listened to the radio late at night to get distant stations. She heard a station in Belgian Congo. It was called getting DX. The radio was a one-tube set with earphones. Mother's sisters came often. Mother drove over to Hillsdale to get my father on Friday and took him back to the train Sunday. I remember these trips in the early 20's well. Louis or Arthur Stoiber occupied the cottage in the 30's, Arthur before and Louis after the big house burned. Dick's mother and father in 1929 bought a place in Harwichport on Cape Cod. I returned from a trip to Europe in the fall of 1928 and the folks were living in house on the main street. They hadn't bought the Cape house yet. Maybe it

was purchased late in the fall, maybe in 1929. Monterey was too cold for mother's arthritis. Eddie first visited Monterey with Dick and his folks in perhaps early spring of 1941. Louis had died in 1939 or was it in October 1940?. Eddie and Dick spent time in Monterey after they were married in 1941 but were not able to come in the war years. Eddie's good friend Louise Bray came once and we left her suitcase on the front porch when we took her to the bus for Boston. We shipped it. Christine first came when she was two because of the war years. Phil came first when he was three. We spent several summers, 1948-1952, on the Keweenaw Peninsula in upper Michigan so did not go to the cottage. Both Chris and Phil spent many summers at the cottage. Chris' friend Martha Rugg and Phil's friend Jimmie Mosenthal came. Chris and Greg came over frequently when they lived in South Hadley and also when they lived in Poughkeepsie. Visits were less frequent when they lived in Wisconsin. Now that they live in Middletown Connecticut they are coming again. Andy first came when he was two and Erik first when he was one. Phil gets back but not often for he has been living in Arizona or Washington state. On his last trip he painted the ceiling of the north and west porch. Five generations have enjoyed the Monterey property.

bought in Spain in 1960

The boathouse and contents deserve mention. It was built after the lake lot was bought. I don't know when; I'd guess in the vicinity of 1910. The whole structure was strengthened, levelled and fixed in 1989 by Tom O'Brien of Otis. Eddie and I had the retaining wall behind it fixed twice, last in 1987 by Mark Makuc. We have had a succession of boats. Now there is a metal rowboat Eddie and I bought in E Thetford the summer we had a cottage on Lake Morey. There is a red kyak made and sold to me by Peter McNair. There is a canvas canoe which I like very much. It is in perfect condition. I bought it in Macy's in 1927 with the first money I earned. I earned the money helping in the high school biology lab. One of the paddles is "new", bought the same summer we were at Lake Morey. The motor for the rowboat is kept in the cottage behind the curtain.

The property consists of three lots, two to the south of Bidwell Rd and one lake lot to the north. The n-s boundaries of the north and south lots don't match. The lake lot is offset I would guess 25 feet to the east. Mark Makuc knows about the lots. The details are not at hand now. Someday I'll incorporate them here.

On the lake lot is the Pines, the Ice House (now tool house) and the boathouse. The garage is on the "Upper lots" and my grandfathers house was there. The foundation remains at least the south side of it. On the north was a cement clothes yard and a steep wall on the north edge of the clothes yard. The wall remains in part. At the foot of the wall there still may be some maidenhair fern growing. The path and stairs from our cottage up the wall to grandpas are gone. There may be remains of Phil's tree house in a maple tree half way up that old path. The big flat rock about 50 feet in from the main highway was a stepping stone for entering carriages. In the southeast corner of the lot was a tennis court now overgrown with not very young pines. Shoots from a flowering magnolia on the south side of the old verandah on the front of Roundtop were still growing in 1990 but barely. A circle of stones west of the stepping stone rock mark the edge of grandma's lily pool. She had goldfish in it and one year we were told they lived frozen in the ice all winter. Now I see remains of the woodbine which covered the front verandah growing in it, not crowded out by a ground cover plant that has spread all over the woods. Only a few hydrangeas are left from the days of the old house that burned I think in the middle thirties. We salvaged owl andirons that we have somewhere, their glass eyes melted

away by the fire. My grandfather bought a Kentucky Coffee tree, an ornamental. I know it was 10-20 feet tall in 1927,. It is about 25 feet toward the road from the big rock. Now it is very tall but the small feathery leaves can be seen by looking up. The leaves are like a locust tree only smaller. In front of our cottage to the left of the steps on the north and next to the house is a royal fern among the many interrupted ferns. At the little building on the lake on the west edge of Peter Anderson's lot grows the only Oak fern I know of around. It has a dark stem, three parts to the frond and is a couple of inches high. Walking fern grows on north side of the big Bull Head Rock on the lake shore a half a mile down the lake to the west from our place. There is another rock on the lake called Elephant rock. It is now hidden in the woods but Erik spied it one day when we were out searching for it. Drive the Hupi road west from 23 and when you go steeply down hill (you are almost back to the Tyringham road which it comes out on) you will see the rock maybe 25 or 50 feet into the woods on your left. In the ancestors stuff or in Monterey pictures I have a photo of Jean Macalister I think or me or both and her father in 1919(?) at the rock before the trees grew up. It was in a field.

All kinds of things that were in grandma's lots in my childhood are gone. A structure for shade perhaps while at the tennis court next to the big rock had Delaware grapes growing on it. Plum trees grew on the side hill just south or a little southeast of the garage. Cultivated raspberries, the biggest and best we ever knew grew by the path from Bidwell's mail box on my grandmother's property. They were just east of the tennis court. Garter snakes could be seen on hot days every summer under a flat rock that topped a stone wall west of Bidwell's path on a hillside now overgrown. I used to show them to Chris and Phil but I don't think they liked them. Under the Pines the other day I saw the wooden cover of the Roundtop mailbox complete with dormers on the roof. It should be heaved but it is kind of a memento. In those days one could make one's mail box a replica of the house. Now one uses regulation boxes of course. The swing Chris and Karen Fargo swung in by the hour is in the garage. It belongs to Peter. I wonder if he will ever remove it. The deer's head in the garage is one shot by Perry Fargo and was in the Pines for years. It should be heaved.

Addendum Sept. 6, 1992

Talking with Mark Makuc about Lake Rd. or Bidwell Rd. or as his plot has it, Lake St., made me decide to write down something about the residents of Bidwell Rd as I remember them. Perhaps I can find something I wrote about these people maybe 20 years ago. If so it will supplement this.

I think the summer settlers here came in several waves. First there were ministers from New York who started to colonize the subdivision called Garfield Park. The Bidwells came, Bobby Volkhausen's dad mother and Aunt came, after World War II a group of Christian Scientists came. The Groehl family, Dr. and his brother Judge Groehl came. The oldest daughter Marion is still here. Horn, Hamer, Williams and others have come and gone. Stoibers derive from the original ministers group. The cottage will go eventually I suspect to my grandchildren, Andy and Erik Fahlund, who have both been here often. There are no more Bidwells. The Bobby Volkhausens come and their son will get their place. Mark Makuc derives from the Leuch family who probably came because

the brother married a Groehl daughter. Mark Makuc now plans to build on Dick Bidwell's upper lot. Peter comes a lot during the summer. . The Quisenberrys and Bohn derive from the scientist crowd.

I think there is a map of Garfield Park Subdivision in the registry of deeds. Perhaps the minister who instigated this was Rev. Elsing, I'm not sure. He had the property on the northeast corner of Bidwell road and Rte. 23 at the easterly of the two junctions of Rte. 23 and Bidwell Rd. It is now Wolfer. Where the Wolfers came from I don't know. The last I have heard of an Elsing was one of the sons my father's age (He was born in 1883) When Dad went to a dude ranch in Tucson, Arizona in 1934 (best guess) for mother's arthritis he looked up the Elsing man and went with him to one of his mining prospects. Maybe there are Elsings in Arizona. . Bruckbauer (not sure of spelling, we pronounced it Brick bower) must have been an early purchaser. Their house was on Rte. 23 but they had lake frontage undeveloped just east of the point. Another perhaps original purchaser was a Rev. Leonhart, A Swiss minister who built the cottage Peter Anderson now owns. In my youth it had siding of slabs with original bark, I suppose it was like a Swiss place. This was the only place in Garfield Park on the north side of the road in the beginning, I think. The Leonhart place was owned by Herbst as early as perhaps 1905. They sold to Peter maybe in 1960 ??? . Edna Herbst and her mother (Nanna) and dad lived there and her sister also til her death in perhaps the 1920's. Mr. Herbst never said anything and seemed to us to be very grouchy although I don't really know. He came to Monterey in the spring and stayed through the fall I think. Perhaps he had TB. I think his daughter, Edna's sister, did. The sister married a Mr. Wilson and had three children Elise,(called Leesie), and Betsy and Bill. Leesie spent some young years with her father the other two children lived with their Aunt Edna. Mr. Wilson remarried. A relative, Steve Wilson, was a student of mine in the early 50's (best guess) at Dartmouth. Bill was last known to be in Florida. Edna has died. Leesie married Perry Fargo's son. After world war II that marriage ended in divorce. She married Mitch Kaplan.. Her daughter was Chris' age, Karen Fargo.

Sometime before I remember, probably before 1907, the Bidwell family came to the place next to our cottage on the east. I suppose they built the giant house. Dr. Bidwell, son Richard and daughters Belle and Grace (who later lived in Lenox I think) came from Vineland. Evelyn, a nurse from Vineland I think, married Dick Bidwell. When my mother came to Monterey before she was married she knew Belle so the Bidwells were in Monterey in 1906 or earlier. (Belle much later married a Mr. Weiss, much older, who lived on the south side of Rte. 23 east of Grohl's). I think the Bidwells were not here when my grandfather bought his place, which I guess was 1895 or so. The Bidwell's brought Pine trees from South Jersey and planted them between our cottage and theirs. A few remain. Two needles to a cluster and a yellowish bark distinguishes the trees from White pine. The Bidwell house was rented long before Evelyn left to live in Great Barrington after Dick died in about 1957. One of the families in the 1920's was Helen Teschner Tass and her husband and two little girls Jan and ?. Mrs. Tass a concert violinist paced the porch practicing the violin. They later bought a place on Gould Farm Road and lived there in the summers. Another couple was Mr and Mrs Ross, a diamond merchant refugee from Holland and wife and daughter, Francie, perhaps in

1950. Evelyn sold to Chub Fuller in the fifties and then when she went to Grewat Barrington she sold the rest of the Bidwell land to Fritz Leuchs.

When Louis Stoiber bought the upper lots he bought a strip of lake front across from the house just east of the one at the turn at the west end of the road, which is the Angel house, which has since burned. When it burned the Angels moved to the house next door to the east which they owned. Mark's grandfather, Mr. Fritz Leuchs, first lived in one of these houses. I suppose they came to Monterey because his grandmother's brother, a Mr. Schneider, married the older Groehl girl, Mark's great aunt who lives on the north side of Route 23 west of our property.. Mark tells me this is not why they came. His grandmother was at the Art School and the father in Hartsville years before they came to Bidwell Rd and before the brother married the Groehl girl.

My grandfather sold the lake property near Angels and bought another piece in 1905 -1914 , the one just north of his lots on Rte. 23 on the north side of Lake Rd, or St. east of the Leonhart, probably then Herbst, property. The Webb family had owned it or at least had a cottage on it. I was told the cottage burned down in 1905 when an oil stove overturned but I am not sure of the date. There are burn scars on the Pine trunks facing the former structure. I don't know what the cottage looked like and I don't know that anyone could tell us now. From the burn marks high on the tree near the lake, low in trees away from the lake and absent on trees along the west edge of our property I assume the house was on stilts on the north end and at ground level to the south and that the wind was from the west when it burned. The Stoibers moved the barn across the road onto their new lake property in perhaps 1914 or more probably 1915. My mother superintended the remodelling into a cottage for the younger Stoiber family. Jimmie Martin, of Mill River, made the fireplace and a man from Hartsville did the carpentry. In later years Dick Bidwell fixed some things for us.

My grandfather willed me the cottage. He used it after his house burned, perhaps in 1936, til his death in 1939 , October. Eddie went first with my folks in 1940 and we went in June 1941 on our way west just after we were married . We had no summers off during the war. I only went to see it once perhaps in 1943 when business took me to central Massachusetts, Southbridge, American Optical, and I hitchhiked over from Springfield for the day. Eddie did not come. She was home in Washington D.C. When the Dick Stoibers went to Michigan for the summers in perhaps 1949,50 and 51 and during one or two war years we rented the cottage. One of the renters who was in the cottage for two years at least bought a place on Candlewood Lake in Connecticut. We have forgotten their name. For two years or maybe more the cottage was rented by the Scherers or Shearers. They had a daughter. As Eddie says they got to feel they owned the place. Later they built a place opposite the Maxwells on the north side of the road on the hill. About this time, perhaps about 1957, Chub Fuller bought half of the Bidwell acreage and Mark's grandfather and grandmother bought the other half. Mrs. Fuller was a Christian Scientist. Their relative, Don Sabin, who worked for the United Nations, I've forgotten whether a cousin or what, bought the place now owned by the Quisenberrys, their daughter. They were Christian Scientists. A Mrs. Bohn who was a Christian Science Healer had bought the point, east along the lake from our boathouse, and the upper house later on just where Bidwell Rd. goes up the hill. Just who

was the first of the Christian Science Crowd I'm not sure, perhaps Shearer or Scherer..

Bobby Volkhausen had bought the little house owned by the Brueckbauers after living in the now upper Bohn house for several years in the early 1920's (best guess). Friends of my mother and dad, Mr. and Mrs. Mailey (son Bruce and daughter Jean) from East Orange NJ rented Gray Nest, as the house Bobby now owns was called, for one or two seasons.

Bella Bidwell lived, when I was a kid, in the house just west of the Quissenberry's place. I think I heard that it was a barn once. It had a big kind of door on the second floor on the road side where hay was loaded in. Sometime it was sold to and Mike Slichter who for some years have lived in the summer across the lake near the Rosen--- s and in the winter in Florida.

I am not clear when the little place between Peter Anderson and the Quisenberry place was built. From what Peter tells me it was a boathouse modified by Lucius. I don't remember it as a kid 1918- 1927 were the years of my pre-college days that I spent every summer at the cottage. I had of course been there earlier, first in 1912 at my grandmothers house in the upper lot which burned in perhaps 1936. In the late 40's or early 50's Peter came often to the little place to visit Lucius and his wife. Lucius and Peter had been in a CCC camp in Monterey and so he had returned with his wife from Ohio and Peter came from Springfield MA to see him. Lucius knew Keyes of Monterey in Springfield, lent him some money which he repaid and Lucius came to Monterey. Keyes dumped sand for Lucius driveway., as Peter says in part as a repayment for the loan. After Lucius the cottage was owned by Taylor whose wife ran an antique shop in Great Barrington for some years. In 1969 Peter heard from Betsey that her aunt was going to leave Monterey and bought the cottage.

Before Palmer, when I was a child, the house at the corner of Rte. 23 and Bidwell Rd. nearest town belonged to Dr. Horn of New York. He had a son born maybe in about 1890 who was also a doctor. I don't know what brought them to Monterey. He, Dr. H. Sr., was my doctor who cared for a mastoid I had.

Mark Makuc has told me the Bidwells of Bidwell Rd were distantl-y related to the Gt. Barrington Bidwells. Is thgis why the Bidwells came to Monterey? The house west of Grandpas was the Baumers. ITIt burned and Mark's aunt bought the lot.